

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the office action dated October 16, 2008. In this first office action the Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by EP 0 723 056. Claim 54 is rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Egan et al., 6,189,351. The Examiner also rejects claims 18-23, 42-45, 49-53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0723,056 in view of Egan.. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 5-17 and 46-48 would be allowed if rewritten to in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 24-41 are allowed.

In an effort to put this application in condition for allowance, claims 2, 5, 43, 46 and 54 have been canceled and the limitations of claims 2, 5, 43 and 46 introduced into claims 1 and 42, respectively. The Examiner indicates that claims 24-41 are allowed.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested. Applicant has made a genuine effort to respond to each of the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicant believes that all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the three month extension of time and any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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